

The Fool and His Many Words

“For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words.”
(Ecclesiastes 5:3)

Introduction

1. We have referenced the many words of the fool several times in this study.
2. In this lesson, we will explore the difference between the words of the fool and the words of the wise or righteous.

Discussion

I. “Many Words”: Quantity without Quality

- A. “Many” implies little thought or lack of deliberate intention.
 1. Eccl. 10:13: Begin with foolishness, end with raving madness-digression.
 2. Eccl. 10:14: Most men do not know what will be, least of all the fool (see James 4:13-17).
 3. Prov. 15:2: Opposite the wise who uses knowledge rightly, the fool does not consider the rightness of his words nor does he teach his lips to speak right things.
- B. “Foolish” implies no regard to God or the things of God in one’s speech.
 1. Psalm 53:1: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”
 2. James 4:13-17: Boasting in arrogance.

II. The fool speaks without receiving knowledge or instruction.

- A. Prov. 18:2: “A **fool** has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.”
 1. Prov. 12:15: “The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.”
 2. Prov. 13:16: “Every prudent *man* acts with knowledge, but a **fool** lays open *his* folly.”
 3. Prov. 14:3: “In the mouth of a **fool** is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.”
 4. Prov. 14:16: “A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, but a **fool** rages and is self-confident.”
- B. Speech without knowledge is perverse and corrupt.
 1. Prov. 19:1: “Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than *one who is* perverse in his lips, and is a **fool**.”
 2. Prov. 20:3: “*It is* honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.”
 3. Prov. 29:11: “A **fool** vents all his feelings, but a wise *man* holds them back.”
 4. Prov. 29:20: “Do you see a man hasty in his words? *There is* more hope for a **fool** than for him.”

III. Examples:

A. Job 38:2: Job and his friends

1. Job was not a fool, but he illustrates the danger of speaking without knowledge.
2. “Darkens counsel with words without knowledge.”
3. Job 42:7-8: But his three friends were far worse.

B. The enemies of Jesus.

1. Matt. 22:29: “You are mistaken, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.”
2. Matt. 12:24, 31, 36: The pharisees.

Conclusion

1. One is proven to be foolish, not because he speaks, but because he speaks without knowledge.
2. The righteous refrain from speaking until they have taught their lips what to say.
3. For the fool, every thought, opinion, and emotion, whether true or not, whether right or wrong, is spoken as if it is truth.
4. Our challenge, as we learn to receive God’s grace for sound speech, is to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). Then, from the abundance of knowledge and wisdom given to us by God through His word, so speak the riches of Christ.